BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT/Simple Majority to Increase Debt Limit

SUBJECT: A Resolution Proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States . . . H.J. Res. 1. Hatch motion to table the Byrd amendment No. 254.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 68-32

SYNOPSIS: Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 62-63, 65-92, and 94-98.

As passed by the House, H.J. Res. 1, a resolution proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, is virtually identical to the balanced budget constitutional amendment that was considered last year by the Senate (see 103d Congress, second session, vote Nos. 47-48). The resolution: will require a three-fifths majority vote of both Houses of Congress to deficit spend or to increase the public debt limit; will require the President's annual proposed budget submission to be in balance; and will require a majority of the whole number of each House to approve any bill to increase revenue. Congress will be allowed to waive these requirements for any fiscal year in which a declaration of war is in effect. Congress will enforce and implement this amendment by appropriate legislation. The amendment will take effect in fiscal year 2002 or with the second fiscal year beginning after its ratification, whichever is later. The States will have 7 years to ratify the amendment.

The Byrd amendment would strike the provision in the resolution stating that the limit on the total debt held by the public may be increased only if three-fifths of the whole number of each House of Congress provide by law for such an increase by a rollcall vote, and would replace it with a provision allowing the limit to be raised by simple majority votes.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Senator Hatch moved to table the Byrd amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

NOTE: The debate on vote Nos. 92, 93, and 95 was en bloc.

For debate, see vote No. 92.

(See other side)

YEAS (68)			NAYS (32)			NOT VOTING (0)	
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		Democrats	Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (32 or 68%)		Republicans	Democrats
		(15 or 32%)				(0)	(0)
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield Helms	Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Baucus Bingaman Bryan Campbell Conrad Exon Feinstein Harkin Heflin Kohl Moseley-Braun Nunn Reid Robb Simon		Akaka Biden Boxer Bradley Breaux Bumpers Byrd Daschle Dodd Dorgan Feingold Ford Glenn Graham Hollings Inouye	Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moynihan Murray Pell Pryor Rockefeller Sarbanes Wellstone	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea